(d) Due to operational and safety requirement of Railway on all India basis~ the coverage has been specified for all the 23 telecom circles.

License for sale of beverages

718. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC has given a license to M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. for sale of hot and cold beverages and pre-cooked/pre-packed snacks and food items at railway stations; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have awarded contract to M/s. Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. for setting up of 67 Automatic Vending Machines (AVM) at Lucknow (NR), Lucknow (NER), Varanasi, Allahabad, Kanpur, Tundla, New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi, Meerut City, Okhla, Kishanganj, Sarojini Nagar, Ghaziabad Junction, Subji Mandi, Darjeeling and Guwahati Railway Stations.

Train on the line of palace on wheels in Karnataka

719. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by his Ministry to introduce a train on the lines of 'Palace on Wheels' in Karnataka to connect important palaces, forts and other places of tourist interest to attract both national and international tourists;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been discussed with the State Govemment, particularly its Tourist Development Corporation for implementation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to materialize and the venture to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received a proposal to run Luxury Tourist Train on the line of 'Palace on Wheels' from the State-Government of Karnataka. Approval has been given by the Ministry to run Luxury Tourist Train in the Karnataka. The tentative itinerary of the proposal is Bangalore-Srirangapatna-Mysore Shravanabelagola-Hassan-Hospet-Gadag-Vasco/Dabolin-Bangalore. The manufacturing of the coaches is almost completed.

(d) The train is likely to become operational in tourist season 2007-08.